Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claim 45 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 16, 17, 32, 41, 42, and 46 to read, as follows.

1. **(Previously Presented)** An image forming apparatus comprising:

a plurality of developing devices, each of which includes a developer carrying member for carrying a developer to develop an electrostatic image formed on an image bearing member with a developer and an associated developer regulating member for regulating the developer carried on said developer carrying member; and

common voltage applying means for applying voltages to said developer regulating members,

wherein voltages applied to said developer carrying members are variable independently from each other, and

wherein when at least one of the voltages applied to said developer carrying members varies, the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members are capable of being changed.

2. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein when at least two of said plurality of developing devices are in operation, the voltages are applied to said developer carrying members associated with said at least two developing devices, and

wherein said developer regulating members associated with said at least two developing devices are supplied with the voltages applied by said voltage applying means.

3. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members are determined by respective voltages applied to said developer carrying members.

4. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members are determined on the basis of at least one of a maximum value and a minimum value of the voltages applied to said developer carrying members.

5. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members are determined on the basis of an average of the voltages applied to said developer carrying members.

6. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members are determined such that potential differences between the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members and one of a maximum value and a minimum value of the voltages applied to said developer carrying members are within a predetermined range.

7. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members are determined such that potential differences between the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members and the voltages applied to said developer carrying members are within a predetermined range.

8. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein an assumed value of the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members is determined on the basis of an average of the voltages applied to said developer carrying members,

wherein when a maximum potential difference between the assumed value and the voltages applied to said developer carrying members is within a predetermined range, the assumed value is determined as being a value of the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members, and

wherein when the maximum potential difference is not within the predetermined range, the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members are determined such that maximum potential difference is within the predetermined range by changing the assumed value.

9. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein a determination is made as to voltages applied to said developer carrying members so as to provide a minimum potential difference between the voltages applied by said voltage

applying means to said developer regulating members and the voltages applied to said developer carrying members, and

when the potential difference between the thus determined voltages and the assumed value is not within a predetermined range, the assumed value is changed so that the potential difference is within the predetermined range.

10. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to any one of Claims 6 through 9, further comprising an ambient condition detecting means for detecting an ambient condition,

wherein the predetermined range is determined in accordance with an output of said ambient condition detecting means.

11. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a range of the voltages applied to said developer carrying members is limited to be within a predetermined range.

12. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the voltages applied to said developer carrying members are determined such that potential differences between the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members and the voltages applied by said developer carrying members are within a predetermined range.

13. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to any one of Claims 6 through 9, further comprising an ambient condition detecting means for detecting an ambient condition,

wherein the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members are determined in accordance with an output of said ambient condition detecting means.

14. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein each of the voltages applied to said developer carrying members is changeable in accordance with a result of detected densities of a reference image formed by respective ones of said developer carrying members.

15. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members are determined in accordance with a result of detected densities of the reference images.

16. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein a density of the [[a]] reference image is detected by formation of one of an image of said image bearing member and an image transferred onto a transfer member from said image bearing member.

17. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the voltages ~~voltages,~~ applied to said developer carrying members are ~~variable,~~ DC voltages.

18. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a plurality of image bearing members, which are developed by said developer carrying members, respectively.

19. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein each one of said plurality of developing devices is provided, together with said image bearing member, in a process cartridge, assembly of the image forming apparatus.

20. **(Previously Presented)** An image forming apparatus comprising:

a plurality of developing devices, each of which includes a developer carrying member for carrying a developer to develop an electrostatic image formed on an image bearing member with a developer, and an associated developer regulating member for regulating the developer carried on said developer carrying member; and

common voltage applying means for applying voltages to said developer regulating members,

wherein the voltages applied to said developer carrying members are changeable, and

wherein the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members are determined on the basis of respective voltages applied to said developer carrying members.

21. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein when at least two of said plurality of developing devices are in operation, the voltages are applied

to said developer carrying members associated with said at least two developing devices, and

wherein said developer regulating members associated with said at least two of said developing devices are supplied with the voltages applied by said voltage applying means.

22. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members are determined on the basis of at least one of a maximum value and a minimum value of the voltages applied to said developer carrying members.

23. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members are determined on the basis of an average of the voltages applied to each of said developer carrying members.

24. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members are determined such that potential differences between the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members and one of a maximum value and a minimum value of the voltages applied to said developer carrying members are within a predetermined range.

25. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members are determined such that potential differences between the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members and the voltages applied to said developer carrying members are within a predetermined range.

26. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein an assumed value of the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members are determined on the basis of an average of the voltages applied to said developer carrying members,

wherein when a maximum potential difference between the assumed value and the voltages applied to said developer carrying members, is within a predetermined range, the assumed value is determined as being a value of the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating means, and

wherein when the maximum potential difference is not within the predetermined range, the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members are determined such that maximum potential difference is within the predetermined range by changing the assumed value.

27. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 26, wherein a determination is made as to the voltages applied to said developer carrying members so as to provide a minimum potential difference between the voltages applied by said voltage

applying means to said developer regulating members and the voltages applied to said developer carrying members, and

wherein when the potential difference between the thus determined voltages and the assumed value is not within a predetermined range, the assumed value is changed so that the potential difference is within the predetermined range.

28. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to any one of Claims 24 through 27, further comprising an ambient condition detecting means for detecting an ambient condition,

wherein the predetermined range is determined in accordance with an output of said ambient condition detecting means.

29. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 20, further comprising an ambient condition detecting means for detecting an ambient condition, wherein the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members are determined in accordance with an output of said ambient condition detecting means.

30. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein each of the voltages applied to said developer carrying members, is changeable in accordance with a result of detected density of a reference image formed by a respective one of said developer carrying members.

31. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein a density of the reference image is detected by formation of one of an image on said image bearing member and an image transferred onto a transfer member from said image bearing member.

32. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the voltages ~~voltages,~~ applied to said developer carrying members are ~~variable,~~ DC voltages.

33. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 20, further comprising a plurality of image bearing members, which are developed by said developer carrying members, respectively.

34. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein each one of said plurality of developing devices is provided, together with said image bearing member, in a process cartridge, which is detachably mountable to a main assembly of the image forming apparatus.

35. **(Previously Presented)** An image forming apparatus comprising:

a plurality of developing devices, each of which includes a developer carrying member for carrying a developer to develop an electrostatic image formed on an image bearing member with a developer and an associated developer regulating member for regulating the developer carried on said developer carrying member; and

common voltage applying means for applying voltages to said developer regulating members,

wherein each of the voltages applied to said developer carrying members is changeable in accordance with a result of a detected density of a reference image formed by a respective one of said developer carrying members, and

wherein a voltage applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members are determined in accordance with a result of the detected density of the reference image.

36. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein when at least two of said plurality of developing devices are in operation, the voltages are applied to said developer carrying members associated with said developing devices, and

wherein said developer regulating members associated with said at least two developing devices are supplied with the voltages applied by said voltage applying means.

37. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members are determined such that potential differences between the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members and one of a maximum value and a minimum value of the voltages applied to said developer carrying members are within a predetermined range.

38. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members are determined such that potential differences between the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating members and the voltages applied to said developer carrying members are within a predetermined range.

39. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 37 or 38, further comprising an ambient condition detecting means for detecting an ambient condition,

wherein the predetermined range is determined in accordance with an output of said ambient condition detecting means.

40. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 35, further comprising an ambient condition detecting means for detecting an ambient condition, wherein the voltages applied by said voltage applying means to said developer regulating means are determined in accordance with an output of said ambient condition detecting means.

41. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein a density of <u>the</u> [[a]] reference image is detected by one of formation of the image on said image bearing member and an image transferred onto a transfer member from said image bearing member.

42. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein the voltages ~~voltages,~~ applied to said developer carrying members are ~~variable,~~ DC voltages.

43. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 35, further comprising a plurality of image bearing members, which are developed by said developer carrying members, respectively.

44. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein each one of said developing devices is provided, together with said image bearing member, in a process cartridge, which is detachably mountable to a main assembly of the image forming apparatus.

45. **(Canceled)**

46. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus ~~according to Claim 45,~~ comprising:

a plurality of developing devices, each of which includes a developer carrying member for carrying a developer to develop an electrostatic image formed on an image bearing member with a developer, and a developer regulating member for regulating the developer carried on said developer carrying member; and

a common voltage applying means for applying a voltage to said developer regulating members,

further comprising a plurality of voltage applying means for applying voltages to said developer carrying members,

wherein the voltages applied to said respective said developer carrying member are independently changeable.